

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, the specification is amended, claims 9-11 are amended, and claims 1-8 and 12-22 are cancelled, leaving claims 9-11 pending with claims 9-11 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 9-11 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 9-11 have been amended to include the subject matter of base claim 1 and intervening claim 7, and therefore each of these claims is in condition for allowance.

Specification

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Claim 15 has been cancelled; therefore, this objection is moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Komada et al. (WO 03075384).

Claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 16 have been cancelled; therefore, this rejection is moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komada in view of Tsunoda (2004/0043270). Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komada in view of Mottola et al. (US 6,179,816). Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komada in view

of Allen (US 6,670,069). Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakata (US 2001/0028974). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komada in view of Nakata and Allen.

Each of these rejections is moot, since claims 4, 6, 8 and 12-15 have been cancelled.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Takashi YAMADA et al.

/Jeffrey J. Howell/

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